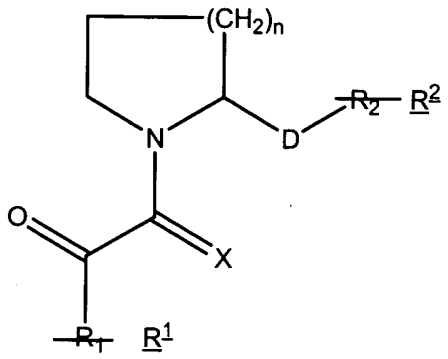
In the Claims:

In accordance with the Pre-OG Notice dated January 31, 2003 permitting amendments in a revised format, applicants provide the following listing of claims.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound ~~**having the formula (I):**~~ **of formula I**



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate of the compound, where**in:**

n is 1-~~3~~;

X is either 0 or S;

~~R1~~ **R1** is ~~**selected from the group consisting of**~~ C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, or heterocycle;

D is a bond, ~~**or a**~~ C_1-C_{10} straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl or C_2-C_{10} alkynyl;

~~R2~~ **R2** is ~~**a**~~ carboxylic acid or a carboxylic acid isostere;

~~**and wherein**~~ said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, heterocycle, or carboxylic acid isostere is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from ~~R3~~ **R3** and Z ~~**, where**~~ **;**

~~R3~~ **R3** and Z are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, haloalkyl, thiocarbonyl, alkoxy, alkenoxy, alkylaryloxy, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, cyano, nitro, imino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, sulfhydryl, thioalkyl, alkylthio, sulfonyl, C_1-C_6 straight

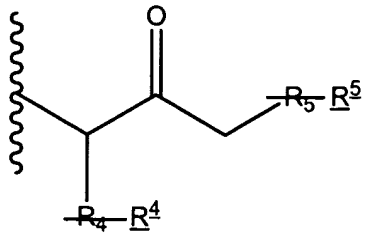
or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_6 straight or branched chain alkenyl or alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, heterocycle, or CO_2R^7;

~~where~~ R^7 is hydrogen, ~~or~~ C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl or C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl;

~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate thereof;~~

provided that ~~:~~ when ~~n = 1, and~~ D is a bond ~~,~~ and ~~R_2~~ R^2 is COOH, then ~~R_1~~ R^1 is not C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl, C_5-C_7 cycloalkyl, C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl, phenylamine, 2-(3, 4-dichlorophenyl)ethyl, hydroxy, ethoxy, benzyl, or ~~Ar_1~~ Ar^1, wherein ~~Ar_1~~ Ar^1 is 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 2-furyl, 3-furyl, 2-thiazolyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 1-pyridyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, or phenyl, and wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, or ~~Ar_1~~ Ar^1 ~~are~~ is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of ~~hydrogen,~~ halo, hydroxyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_9 straight or branched alkyl, C_2-C_9 straight or branched alkenyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_2-C_4 alkenyloxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, COOH, and amino;

further provided that ~~:~~ when ~~n = 1, and~~ D is a bond, ~~and R_2~~ R^2 is the carboxylic acid isostere -CONZ(R^3), ~~and~~ Z is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl, and R^3 is phenyl, or C_2-C_6 straight or branched chain alkyl or alkenyl, wherein said alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted in one or more positions with ~~Ar_2~~ Ar^2 as defined below, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl connected by methyl or a C_2-C_6 straight or branched chain alkyl or alkenyl ~~chain~~, C_1-C_4 alkyl ester, or ~~Ar_3~~ Ar^3 wherein ~~Ar_3~~ Ar^3 is selected from the group consisting of 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 2-furyl, 3-furyl, 2-thiazolyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, or phenyl, having one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_6 straight or branched alkyl, C_2-C_6 straight or branched alkenyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_2-C_4 alkenyloxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, and amino; wherein said alkyl ester is optionally substituted with phenyl; or R^3 is the fragment:



wherein ~~R_4~~ R^4 is selected from the group consisting of straight or branched chain C_1-C_8 alkyl optionally substituted with C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, benzyl, or ~~Ar_2~~ Ar^2 as defined below, and wherein ~~R_2~~ R^2 is COOZ or $CONR^6$, wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6 straight or branched alkyl, and C_2-C_6 straight or branched alkenyl, and wherein R_5 is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, benzyl, C_1-C_6 straight or branched alkyl, and C_2-C_6 straight or branched alkenyl, wherein said alkyl or alkenyl is optionally substituted with phenyl; then ~~R_1~~ R^1 is not C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl, substituted thiophene, or C_1-C_4 alkoxy, wherein said alkyl or alkenyl is optionally substituted in one or more positions with C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_5-C_7 cycloalkenyl, or ~~Ar_2~~ Ar^2 as ~~, where Ar_2 is~~ defined below, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ~~groups may be~~ is optionally substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl, ~~C_1-C_4~~ C_2-C_4 alkenyl, or hydroxy, and wherein ~~Ar_2~~ Ar^2 is 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 2-furyl, 3-furyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, or phenyl, having one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_6 straight or branched alkyl, C_2-C_6 straight or branched alkenyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_2-C_4 alkenyloxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, and amino;

further provided that ÷ when ~~n = 1, and~~ X is O, ~~and~~ D is a bond, and ~~R_2~~ R^2 is -$CONH_2$, then ~~R_1~~ R^1 is not methyl, ethyl, iso-propyl, iso-butyl, iso-pentyl, 4-methylpentyl, indolyl, phenyl, or hydroxyphenyl;

further provided that ÷ when ~~n = 1, and~~ X is O, ~~and~~ D is a bond, and ~~R_2~~ R^2 is cyano, then ~~R_1~~ R^1 is not methyl;

~~further provided that:~~

~~when n = 2, and X is O, and D is a bond, and R_2 is CONZ(R^3), and R_1 is ethoxy, then R^3 or Z is not halo-substituted phenyl;~~

~~further provided that:~~

~~when n = 2, and X is O, and D is a bond, and R_2 is CONZ(R^3) and R_1 is substituted thiophene or tetrahydropyranoxy, or methoxy, then R^3 or Z is not C_1-C_4 alkyl ester substituted ethyl;~~

~~further provided that:~~

~~when n = 2, and X is O, and D is a bond, and R_2 is CONZ(R^3) and R_1 is ethoxy, then R^3 or Z is not 4-chlorophenyl;~~

~~further provided that:~~

~~when n = 2, and X is O, and D is a bond, and R_2 is CONZ(R^3) and R_1 is cyclohexyl, then R^3 or Z is not ethyl or propyl substituted with phenyl;~~

further provided that ÷ when D is CH_2, then ~~R_2~~ $\underline{R^2}$ is not -OMe, -NHMe, or substituted -NHcyclohexyl; and

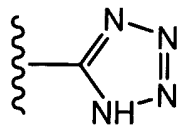
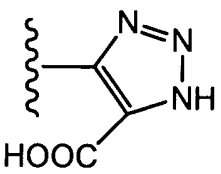
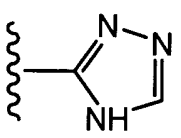
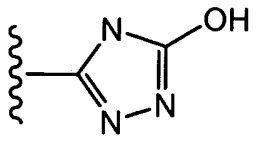
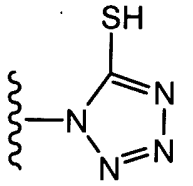
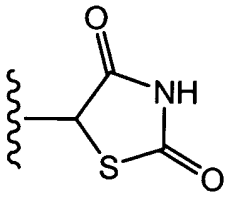
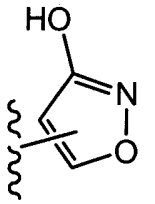
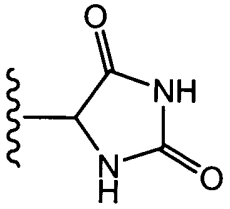
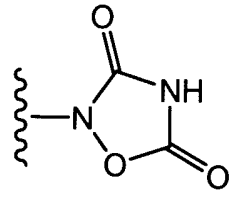
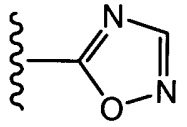
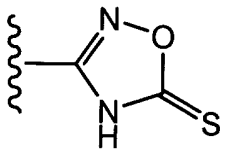
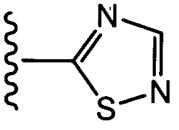
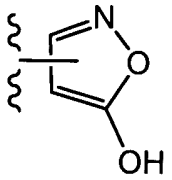
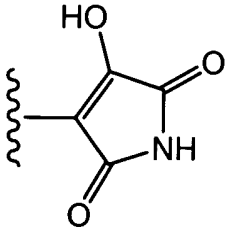
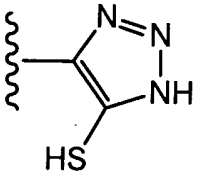
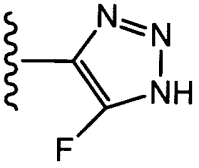
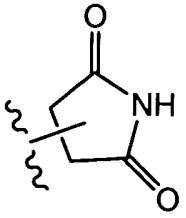
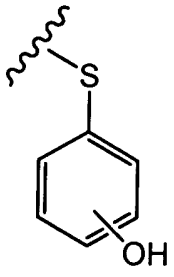
further provided that ÷ when D is CH_2, and ~~R_2~~ $\underline{R^2}$ is -OH, then ~~R_1~~ $\underline{R^1}$ is not phenyl or pyrrolidinemethanol ÷

~~further provided that:~~

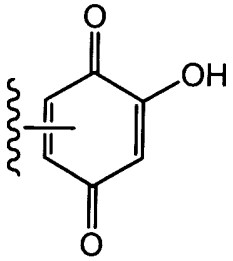
~~when n = 2, and X is O, and D is a bond, and R_2 is COOH, then R_1 is not methyl, tert-butyl, 1,1-dimethyl-2-methyl-propyl, 1,1-dimethyl-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, phenyl, tetrahydropyranoxy substituted C_4-C_6 alkyl, 1-methyl-1-methoxyamide, 1-methylcyclohexyl, 3-iodophenyl, 3-methyl ester-cyclopentyl, 1,1-dimethyl-6-phenyl-hex-3,5-dioxy, or trimethoxyphenyl~~.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein ~~R_2~~ $\underline{R^2}$ is a carbocycle or heterocycle containing any combination of CH_2, O, S, or N in any chemically stable oxidation state, wherein any of the atoms of said ring structure ~~are~~ is optionally substituted in one or more positions with R^3.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein ~~R_2~~ $\underline{R^2}$ is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~:

or



wherein the atoms of said ring structure ~~may be~~ is optionally substituted at one or more positions with R^3.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The compounds, (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3—dimethylpentyl)-2-hydroxymethylpyrrolidine; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-pyrrolidinetetrazole; (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-pyrrolidinecarbonitrile; ~~and (2S)-1-(1,2-dioxo-3,3-dimethylpentyl)-2-aminocarbonyl piperidine;~~ and compounds ~~1-25, 27, 28, 31-33, and 35-136~~ 1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 21, 24-32, 34, 38-40, 44, 45, 47-52, 62, 64-68, 73-98, 101, 102, 106, 108-117 and 119-137 of Tables I, II, and III.

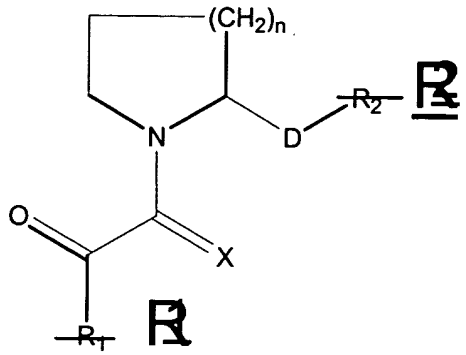
Claim 6 (original): The compound 1-{2-[3-(4-Fluorophenyl)(1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)] pyrrolidinyl}-3,3-di-methylpentane-1,2-dione.

Claim 7 (original): The compound 3,3-Dimethyl-1-[2-(3-methyl(1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl))pyrrolidinyl]pentane-1, 2-dione.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein the N-heterocyclic carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid isostere comprises~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(i) a compound of formula ~~(I)~~ I



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate of the compound, wherein:

n is 1-~~3~~;

X is either O or S;

~~R1~~ **R^1** is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl ~~or alkenyl~~, C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, or heterocycle;

D is a bond, ~~or a~~ C_1-C_{10} straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl or C_2-C_{10} alkynyl;

~~R2~~ **R^2** is carboxylic acid or a carboxylic acid isostere;

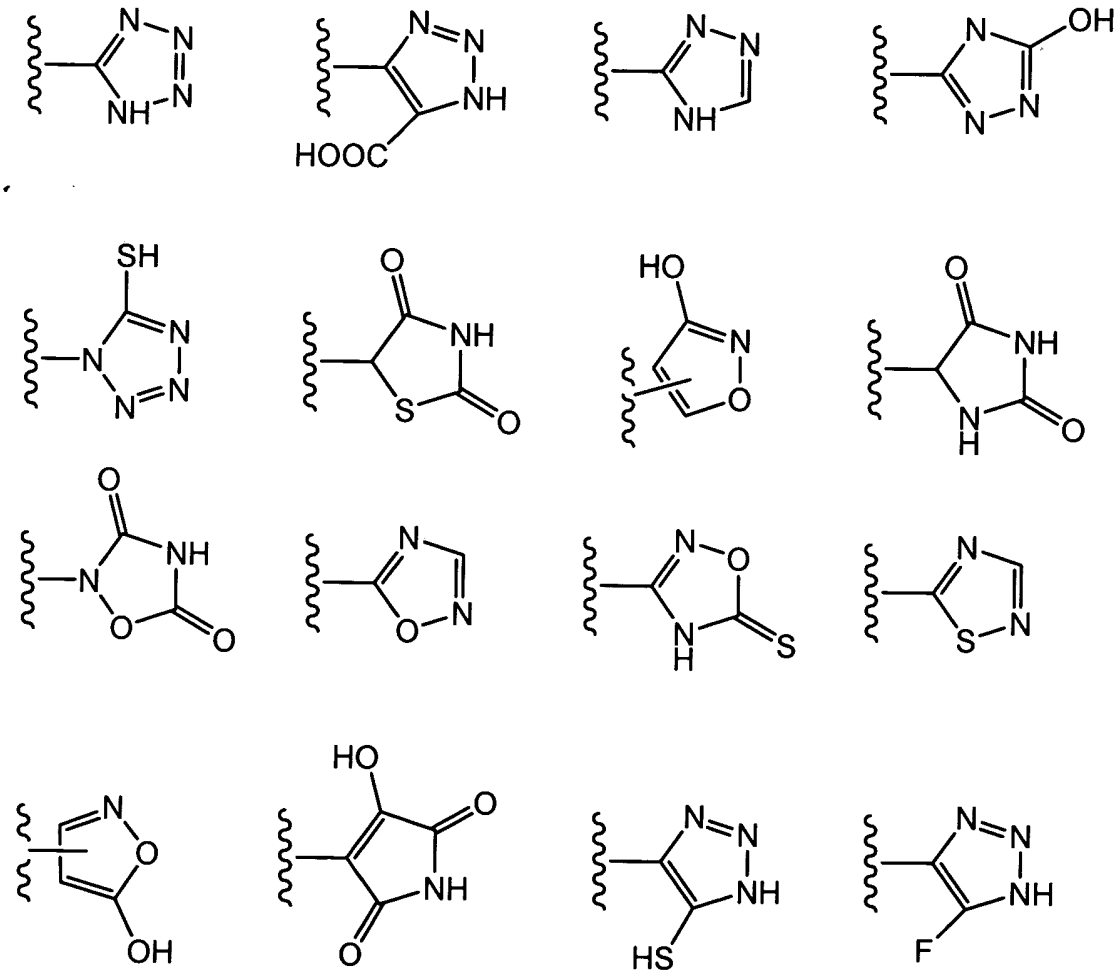
~~and wherein~~ said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, or heterocycle is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from ~~R^3, where R^3 is hydrogen,~~ hydroxy, halo, haloalkyl, thiocarbonyl, alkoxy, alkenoxy, alkylaryloxy, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, cyano, nitro, imino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, sulfhydryl, thioalkyl, alkylthio, sulfonyl, C_1-C_6 straight or branched chain alkyl, C_2-C_6 straight or branched chain alkenyl or alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, carbocycle, heterocycle, and CO_2R^7 wherein R^7 is hydrogen, ~~or~~ C_1-C_9 straight or branched chain alkyl or C_2-C_9 straight or branched chain alkenyl; **and**

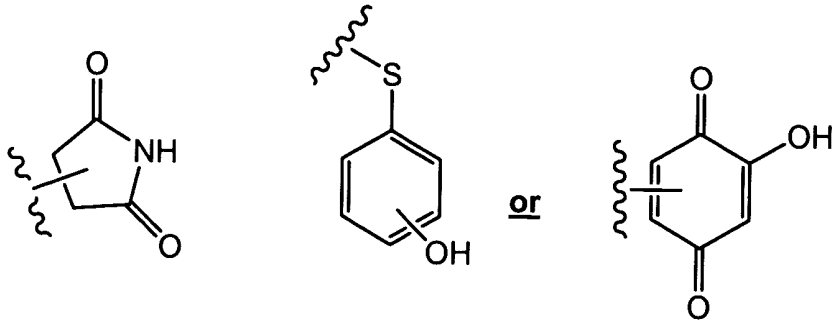
~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or solvate thereof~~

(ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein ~~R_2~~ $\underline{R^2}$ is a carbocycle or heterocycle containing any combination of CH_2, O, S, or N in any chemically stable oxidation state, wherein any of the atoms of said ring structure ~~are~~ is optionally substituted in one or more positions with R^3.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein ~~R_2~~ $\underline{R^2}$ is ~~selected from the following group~~:





B3 Cont.

wherein the atoms of said ring structure ~~may be~~ is optionally substituted at one or more positions with R^3.

Claim 12 (canceled)

B4

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the ~~N-heterocyclic carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid isostere~~ compound is selected from the group consisting of compounds ~~1-139~~ **1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 21, 24-32, 34, 38-40, 44, 45, 47-52, 62, 64-68, 73-98, 101, 102, 106, 108-117 and 119-137 of Tables I, II and III**.

Claims 14-82 (canceled)